

Appln No. 10/733,824

Amdt date September 13, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 11-14 are pending herein, with claims 1 and 7 being amended for clarity, claims 4, 8-10 and 15-18 being withdrawn, and claims 19 and 20 being deleted. The Examiner has indicated that the application contains eight species (with Applicant's Group numbers), as follow:

Group 1, Species of Figures 2-6;
Group 2, Species of Figures 7-8;
Group 3, Species of Figure 9;
Group 4, Species of Figures 11-12;
Group 5, Species of Figures 13-18;
Group 6, Species of Figures 19-20.
Group 7, Species of Figures 21 and 22; and
Group 8, Species of Figures 23.

Applicant deletes claims 19 and 20, which are directed to Group 4, the Species of Figures 11 and 12, and Group 5, the Species of Figures 13-18.

Applicant elects Group 1, Species of Figures 2-6, with traverse, which is directed to claims 1-3, 5-7 and 11-14 for examination, and accordingly withdraws claims 4, 8-10 and 15-18 and deletes claims 19 and 20.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is generic to the Species of Groups 1-3 and 6-8 since each of the embodiments include the following features:

a support structure having a fixed, object contact surface in the form of a fixed wall;

Appln No. 10/733,824

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a cinch strap; and

a pivot arm pivoted at one end to the support structure and having a free end, wherein the cinch strap has a first end that engages with the free end of the pivot arm, and a second end that engages with the support structure.

In the case of Group 1, Species of Figures 2-6, this is the basic embodiment. (See claims 1-3, 5, 6, 7, and 11-14.)

Group 2, Species of Figures 7-8 is similar to Group 1 except that a cam is incorporated into the free end of the pivot arm. (See claims 1 and 4.)

Turning to Group 3, Species of Figure 9, this is similar to Group 1, except that the cinch strap has a first end that slideably engages with the free end of the pivot arm for enhanced adjustability. (See claims 1, 8, 9 and 15-17.)

With respect to Group 6, Species of Figures 19 and 20, it is similar to Group 1, Species of Figures 2-6, except that it further includes a handle and its cinch strap is length adjustable. (See claims 1, 6-10 and 18.)

Regarding Group 7, Species of Figures 21 and 22, it is similar to Group 6 except that the cinch strap is fixedly attached to the support structure rather than to the pivot arm. (See claims 1, 10 and 15-18).

Lastly, Group 8, Species of Figure 23, it is like Group 1, Species of Figures 2-6, and that can be held in a vise.

The Species of Groups 1-3 and 6-8 all function in basically the same manner and have support structure, a pivot arm, and a cinch strap connecting between the pivot arm and support structure. By inserting an item to be gripped and twisting, the

Appln No. 10/733,824

Amdt date September 13, 2004

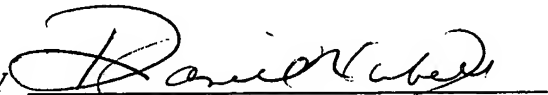
Reply to Office action of July 20, 2004

cinch strap will tighten around the object to be gripped and held there against the stationary structure. This can be used to open a jar, hold a pipe, and the like, whether or not the object gripping device is mounted under a cabinet, held in a vise, or designed with a handle to be hand held.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Species of Groups 1-3 and 6-8 should be examined in this application, and that the withdrawn claims, namely 4, 8-10 and 15-18, should be entered back into the case. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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